



ACTIVITIES REPORT

Stakeholder consultation workshop on the Code of Sustainable Shrimp Farming Assessment of training needs on sustainable shrimp farming

1. Objectives:

Assess training needs on sustainable wild shrimp farming to design training modules tailored to the wishes of shrimp farmers, managers, local policymakers and private organizations in the region area.

2. Methodology:

40 interviewees were interviewed on their on their knowledge and experience related to shrimp farming, their training history and lessons learned, their knowledge gap and training need, their suggestion of the training format, duration, and location.

3. Objects:

Tra Vinh Department of Fisheries; Forest Protection Department; Agriculture & Rural development Department; Agricultural Extension Center; Tra Vinh University; Management Board of Long Khanh Conservation Area; Tra Vinh Fisheries and Horticulture Association; Long Thanh Cooperative; Thanh Dat Cooperative; Ngoc Hien private enterprise; Cuu Long Seafood Joint Stock Company; Shrimp farming households in Long Khanh commune, Duyen Hai district.

4. Results:

4.1. Results of discussion and information sharing from participants

With local experiences, the participants provided information about the MAM2 project, difficulties to move towards sustainable shrimp farming under ecological certification, and suggest solutions to be taken, details are as follows:

Difficulties:

- The shrimp farming area of many households in Tra Vinh is very small, about 1 hectare, if shrimp are raised according to the criteria to achieve international certification (Ex. ASIC), the yield is lower than other types of farming, it will not guarantee livelihood for their family
- The investment irrigation system is not synchronized, not meeting the demand for water supply and drainage

- Farmers take advantage of the available area for farming, the shrimp-forest ratio is not satisfactory, the forest rate is low, only 20-20% of the forest area
- Many households have been trained in forest-shrimp farming techniques but have not yet applied the technique due to large capital investment
- There are a number of households raising shrimp spontaneously in ecological farming areas, intensive farming with high density, polluting the surrounding environment, so the farming area is likely to be difficult to achieve ecological certification.
- Farmers harvest and stockpile all year round, do not follow the seasonal schedule, so shrimp farming is not effective, the river rate is low
- The quality of local seed is not guaranteed because the seed is produced by small local establishments and has not been certified to be eligible for sale.
- People are only used to farming, do not have the habit of taking notes, it is very difficult to ask people to follow this rule.
- Some forest-shrimp farming households have supplemented with other food sources thus hindering the achievement of organic shrimp certification
- To get an ecological certificate, many documents are needed, Tra Vinh has done but so far has not obtained the certificate

Solutions:

- To raise shrimp according to ASIC's criteria, the participation of enterprises is required
- It is necessary to communicate and propagate so that people understand the benefits of participating in this ASIC set of criteria
- The set of procedures and papers to apply for ASIC certification should be simple and easy for people to access
- In order to improve the survival rate during stocking and rearing (>90%), shrimp seed should be raised in ponds when reaching the size of 20-30 mm before being released to the outside environment
- Afforestation on the cassette (including choosing the direction for planting) to ensure the creation of living space for shrimp, adequate light, growth and development well, and no greening of shrimp shells.
- Planning is required, to ensure a minimum forest area for ASIC certification
- It is necessary to have a cooperative group (5-6 people) to regularly share and exchange experiences, thereby supporting each other

- It is necessary to coordinate with exporters to get a higher selling price of shrimp, because to obtain certification there will be more costs, if the selling price does not increase, it will be difficult to get cooperation from farmers
- Tra Vinh is currently developing an eco-tourism model, which can be combined with ecological zones to increase the value of black tiger shrimp
- The project needs detailed training on ASIC content

Questions:

The following questions will be discussed in more detail in the upcoming training session:

- Is the extensive farming area interspersed with several intensive farming ponds, is it ASIC certified?
- What solution will be implemented for the intensive farming households in the farming area under ASIC certification?
- What is the difference of ASIC compared to other certifications like Naturland or Organic?

4.2. Results of individual interviews

The project consulted 40 people, they are representatives of state management agencies (sub-department of fisheries, center of fishery extension, Sub-department of forest protection, Long Thanh Cooperative, Thanh Dat Cooperative), some businesses and shrimp farmers in the area. The content of the consultation is based on the questions that have been set up in the questionnaire, and the results of the consultation are summarized as follows (Details - see Appendix 5):

- Out of 21 interviewees who are shrimp farmers, 6 have not raised shrimp and have experience in state management of fisheries. 10 households have extensive shrimp farming and 5 households have intensive shrimp farming.
- Of all the interviewees, only Cuu Long company has BAD, ASC, Global GAP certificates, the rest do not have any certificates
- Most of the interviewees have a clear understanding of the concept of sustainable forest shrimp farming, the role of shrimp-forest farming in the economy, society and environment.
- Some interviewees do not remember exactly when the local government promoted Sustainable Forest Shrimp Farming. This information is better known to the people through the MAN 2 project of Cuu Long seafood company and the Center for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension, Forest Protection Department, Minh Phu company

- 100% of interviewees know about sustainable shrimp-forest farming from the mass media, short and long-term training courses and from projects such as WB9, MAM 2 implemented locally.
- The training courses that farmers and staff have participated in within the last 5 years related to sustainable forest shrimp farming are: VIETGAP; ecological farming techniques; Clean shrimp; improved edge management shrimp farming techniques certified for ecological shrimp; shrimp farming model.
- The contents of the training are useful to the participants is a farming technique to improve survival rate, the role of the forest in ecological shrimp farming.
- The households have been trained in shrimp-forest farming, have applied some techniques in the farming process, for example: determining the appropriate shrimp-forest ratio; select high-quality varieties; Hygiene techniques, treatment of square bottom farming, however, there is confusion between industrial farming and ecological farming
- 95% of the interviewees wished to receive training on shrimp-forest farming to gain a deeper understanding of farming techniques, especially ASIC standards to achieve higher economic efficiency, more stable income, and to serve the state management.
- According to the interviewees, the factors that help the training session to be successful are practical knowledge, appropriate implementation area and time, experienced and qualified implementing experts and inviting the right participants.
- According to the suggestions of the interviewees, the most suitable training time for local people is October-November 2022, the appropriate training time is 2-3 days. The content of the training course on: Sustainable Forest shrimp farming techniques, Lessons learned on sustainable forest shrimp farming, connecting markets or purchasing companies in sustainable shrimp farming, international certificates in shrimp farming sustainable forest.
- Expected in the next training session to gain knowledge to apply locally, especially knowledge related to the conditions to be certified for wild shrimp, market linkage, the project needs to do a pilot model, then popularize and replicate the model in the area.

5. Overall Review:

- In general, local managers, local private enterprises/companies and farmers understand the role of forests in shrimp farming, Farmers have been trained on sustainable organic shrimp and wild shrimp farming, however, due to farming practices and conditions of households as well as local infrastructure, it is not yet met. Therefore, shrimp-forest farming has not achieved high efficiency, farmers still face many difficulties in the farming process. The local desire is to have a training course related to: Sustainable Forest shrimp farming techniques, Lessons learned on sustainable forest shrimp farming, connecting to a market

or purchasing company in sustainable wild shrimp farming, International Certificate in Sustainable Forest Shrimp Farming (ASIC), especially the project needs to implement a demonstration model for local application and replication in the future. The time to organize the training department is T10-T11, the training time should be about 3 days.